Delay in Air India Flight to New York

*266. SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)whether an Air India flight to New York via London with hundreds of passengers was delayed for more than 19 hours following a string of misunderstandings and confusion as reported in the media recently;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government has investigated the exact cause of delay due to which flight could not take off on time;

(d)if so, the details thereof; and

(e)the steps taken by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIPRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Air India's flight AI-111 of 27.2.2008 on Delhi-London-New York route had to be rescheduled from 0720 hours to 0255 hours on 28.2.2008. Though the aircraft was ready, a combination of factors like fuel spillage, behaviour of some recalcitrant passengers, off-loading of a medical case, Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) of pilots and night curfew at London airport led to this rescheduling.

(e) Fuel spillage at the time of aircraft fueling is not an unusual occurrence in the airline industry. Air India have been advised to deal firmly with troublesome passengers, Including exploring recourse to legal action, so that the other passengers are not made to suffer.

Insurance for PAN Card Holders

† *267. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide public insurance for the Permanent Account Number (PAN) card holders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration for providing insurance cover to the Permanent Account Number (PAN) card holders by the Central Government.

Protected Monuments in Andhra **Pradesh**

*268. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of protected monuments located in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount spent on the maintenance of the said monuments during the last three years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.